

**FAIRFAX COUNTY ATHLETIC COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

September 21, 2005

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Joseph Jozefczyk, Braddock District  
Michael Champness, Dranesville District  
Harold Leff, Hunter Mill District  
Lula Bauer, Lee District  
Barbara R. Lowrey, Mason District  
Wesley "Mike" Viilo, Mt. Vernon District  
Stephen McLaughlin, Providence District  
Michael Congleton, Alternate, Springfield District  
David Lacey, Sully District  
Elizabeth T. Bradsher, Member-At-Large  
Sam Althoff, Town of Vienna  
Rob Hahne, Fairfax County Baseball Council  
William Pruiett, Alternate, Fairfax County Girls' Fast Pitch Softball  
Sharon Sealock, Alternate, Fairfax County Adult Softball Council  
Mark Meana, Fairfax County Football Board of Commissioners  
Bill Harvey, Fairfax County Lacrosse Council  
Ralph Wills, Fairfax County Soccer Advisory Council

**COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES:**

George Lovelace, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Timothy White, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Amy Craig, Fairfax County School Board  
Patricia Franckewitz, Department of Community and Recreation Services  
Karen Avvisato, Department of Community and Recreation Services  
Jesse Ellis, Department of Community and Recreation Services  
Ashlee Currie, Department of Community and Recreation Services

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Roger Sims, Springfield District  
J. Marcelo Gangotena, Diversity-At-Large  
Jeffrey E. Stein, Town of Clifton  
Jerry Carter, Town of Herndon  
Robert L. Panek, Fairfax County Girls Fast Pitch Softball  
Carl Coan, Fairfax County Adult Softball Council  
Tom Moore, Fairfax County Youth Basketball Council  
Tricia Johnson, Fairfax County Volleyball Council  
Jacqueline Stephens, Fairfax County Women's Sports Programs

**Meeting Opening** – The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by Stephen McLaughlin. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

**Citizens to Address Council** - None

### **Presentations to the Council**

Presentation #1: Turf Field Installation and Maintenance: Tim White and Lynn Tadlock, Fairfax County Park Authority

Mr. White stated that the Park Authority is excited about the turf field program. He explained that implementation could take longer than hoped for, as the FCPA is governed by the same processes as any developer and staff resources are limited, as they are already dedicated to bond projects approved by the voters.

Ms. Tadlock asked the Council to prioritize their emphasis on getting fields built quickly, cheaply, or with good quality. FCPA tries to focus on quality, as it saves money and time in the long run. In order to deliver a quality product cheaply, you must sacrifice time. FCPA is not happy with their current specs for turf fields and believes they need to involve the public in redefining them. Building one field (including design, bid, and installation) can be done in 13 months with current specs (EC Lawrence specs). There is the possibility of contracting the entire process out. However, the contract process itself would take 16 to 19 months.

Savings could be reaped by achieving economies of scale. In any case, the lowest bidder is awarded the contract, and FCPA is not seeing quality companies offering competitive bids for single fields. Instead, the quotes are coming in at \$900,000 to \$1 million, due to increased construction costs.

Mr. Wills stated that, given the shortage of rectangular fields, the turf fields are needed quickly. The FCPA master plans are already prepped for many fields to be converted. The Board of Supervisors should create field priority lists for each district. Mr. Wills concluded by asking if it would be possible to piggy-back on the FCPS turf program to achieve economies of scale. Ms. Craig indicated that the FCPS deal includes all schools at half price plus advertising rights for the company. Mr. White suggested that they would be open to working with the schools, but Ms. Franckewitz warned that the schools do not have the money for their program yet.

Mr. Lacey suggested that some of the ECL specs could be generalized to speed up that process. He also stated that the bond projects are wish lists and that everything on them does not get completed. He asked if it would be possible to change the projects. Mr. White responded that the FCPA is taking a new approach with this bond. Some of the fields listed are slated for improvement; it would be easy to work turfing those fields into the work plan. Mr. White also stated that, once there are no fields left in the bond plan, the issue of fitting the turf projects into the work plan will have to be revisited.

Mr. Meana stated that the concept of the program was to motivate citizens to organize and partner with each other to develop turf fields. To give citizens this opportunity, the FCPA must be willing to make choices in the work plan. Mr. Meana reminded the council that Chairman Connolly is committed to the program.

Mr. Meana asked how much the ECL field cost. Ms. Tadlock answered that it was \$700,000, which did not include embedded lines. Mr. Meana asked how much the Fairfax High School field cost and if their specs were acceptable. Ms. Craig said she thought that field was \$900,000, but that they had drainage issues to contend with. Ms. Tadlock stated that specs must be written to weed out bad contractors, since low bids must be accepted. Mr. Viilo indicated that the Bishop Ireton school turf project only took one year. Ms. Tadlock responded that, as a private entity, the school wasn't subject to the same procurement processes and restrictions as a public organization.

Mr. Viilo suggested that the sooner the program gets started, the more enthusiasm will be generated. Mr. White agreed and stated that the FCAC should choose the fields, but exactly which ones and how many fields are subject to their processes. Fitting the fields into the existing bond work plan is the cheapest and quickest way to proceed.

Mr. Viilo asked if the FCPA had a preference for how many fields should be approved in five years. Ms. Tadlock answered that packaging multiple fields would be cheapest and easiest to manage. She thought that five fields would get the bidders' attention and introduce economies of scale. She clarified that specs indicate what the end product looks like (materials, turf, etc); specs go out to bid. Not included in the bidding process are individual site design and rough grading plans.

Mr. Hahne asked for clarification on how much money is available for the program. Ms. Avvisato replied that \$425,000 per year is redirected from the application fee revenues into the program. Mr. Meana indicated that there is potential to increase this amount through the Capital Improvement Plan, carryover, and other appropriations. Ms. Franckewitz explained that the application fee revenues have been redirected into three areas and that the turf program will be administered through the process being discussed tonight.

Mr. Wills stated that if fields are pre-identified, partnerships can begin to be formed.

Mr. White explained that bids and contracts cannot be completed if the money is not all in hand. Mr. Hahne suggested that lowering the amount of money available per project would allow an increased opportunity to achieve economies of scale. Ms. Franckewitz reminded the Council that the money is not in hand right now for multiple fields; only \$425,000 will be available annually.

Mr. Harvey suggested doubling the application fee to \$11 so more money would be available. Mr. Meana suggested that that might be an option after the program proves successful. Ms. Bradsher agreed that the program was designed to be a pilot and that we should focus on getting one successful field completed. Ms. Lowery agreed. Mr. McLaughlin suggested rushing the approval process and making sure that the construction process gets started.

Mr. Ellis explained the program and the criteria for choosing fields.

Mr. Lovelace reminded the Council that there is only enough money for one field per year. Mr. McLaughlin suggested that if enough groups come up with money, the county's share could be spread out to fund additional fields. Mr. Meana agreed and stated that success could create the energy to make that happen. Ms. Franckewitz added that, if groups have money and are ready to fund fields, there will be a better chance at obtaining carryover funds. Mr. Lovelace suggested that the council pressure the BOS to identify more funding.

Mr. Lacey asked if there would be an MOU with the schools to ensure that community use gets priority on the turf school fields. Ms. Franckewitz affirmed there would. Mr. Congleton asked if there are any restrictions on outside funding sources (e.g., corporate sponsors). Ms. Franckewitz replied that anything legal would be considered.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that the program does not need to be perfect to get started. He and Ms. Franckewitz will appoint the selection committee based on avoiding conflicts of interest.

Mr. McLaughlin moved that the Council approve the program.

Ms. Lowrey moved to amend the program to reduce the amount of funding available. Ms. Franckewitz and Mr. McLaughlin stated that the wording would be changed to state that \$425,000 is available and that the county is seeking matching funds.

Ms. Sealock asked why only rectangular fields are covered in the program. Ms. Franckewitz explained the breakdown of application fee revenues and that the program was already approved.

The motion, as amended, was approved unanimously.

### **Administrative Items**

On motions from Mr. Lacey, the Council approved the minutes from the May 18, 2005, and July 20, 2005, meetings.

### **Chairman's Items** – None

### **Committee Reports**

Protecting Our Fields (Walk-on Use) Committee: Lula Bauer

The Board of Supervisors denied the requests made by the committee for carryover funding, but instructed County Executive Anthony Griffin to put the program into the FY 2007 budget as a priority. Ms. Sealock asked why the BOS denied the request; Mr. White answered that the BOS does not fund recurring programs through the carryover process.

Ms. Avvisato commended Ms. Bauer for her hard work and ability to get the attention of the BOS. Ms. Bauer and Mr. McLaughlin urged members of the Council to talk to the BOS representatives to lobby for adoption of the program in the 2007 budget.

Ms. Bauer explained that walk-on use has taken on added dimensions, as seen with the recent episodes of violence at Pine Ridge Park and George Washington Park. Also, with the drought already damaging field conditions, walk-on users are exacerbating the problem.

### **Matters of Interest from Governing Bodies**

Information – Fairfax County Park Authority: Tim White, FCPA

Beginning next week, the FCPA's Park Operations Division (maintenance) will expand its operations to seven days per week. Each weekend day, there will be three staff members on duty in each FCPA area. In response to a question from Mr. Wills, Mr. White indicated that he will get contact information out to the athletic community. Ms. Bauer asked if these staff will remove walk-on players from fields if they have intimidated permit holders into leaving. Mr. White stated that a permit holder will need to be present in order to enforce the permit.

Information – Fairfax County School Board: Amy Craig, FCPS – Nothing

Information – Community and Recreation Services: Jesse Ellis, CRS

Mr. Ellis presented a draft copy of the application for athletic groups to apply for free trainings from the Positive Coaching Alliance. He asked members to submit their comments on the application to Chris Pulley of CRS by the end of the week. He also asked members who are interested in serving on the selection committee to notify Mr. Pulley by the end of the week.

Information – Community and Recreation Services: Patricia Franckewitz, Director, CRS

The Board of Supervisors approved a three-year phase-in of after-school programming in the middle schools. CRS is actively looking at how to minimize the impact on community use in these schools. Each site ( ten schools starting January 1, 2006, then an additional eight schools in each of the next two years) will have a staff member who serves as both an after-school program coordinator and community use coordinator. Mr. Viilo asked if CRS will inform user groups when community use will be impacted. Ms. Avvisato replied that they will, and that she has already started trying to partner athletic organizations with the programs.

**Old Business**

Schools/County MOU – Pat Franckewitz

The county and the schools are still working out some of the details in the MOU concerning facility supervision.

**New Business**

Mr. Meana reminded members to talk to their Board of Supervisors representatives to ask for additional funds for the turf field program.

**Adjournment**

On motion from Mr. Lacey, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jesse Ellis  
Branch Manager, Athletic Services Division, CRS